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Security Council

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Letter dated 5 January 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 5 January 2001, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

01-20507 (E) 080101

Annex

Letter dated 5 January 2001 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on operations of the Stabilization Force (SFOR). I would appreciate your making the report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force (SFOR)

1. Over the reporting period (13 November-12 December), there were approximately 22,000 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the NATO allies and from 15 non-NATO countries. Troops of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations by means of ground and air patrols. Other operations included area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the Entity Armed Forces (EAF), conducting weapons storage site inspections, providing support to the international organizations in theatre and collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest.

2. SFOR support to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for the supervision of the 11 November elections ended on 30 November. During this last phase of its support operation, SFOR delivered ballots to counting centres and assisted civil authorities in ensuring a safe and secure environment following the announcement of the election results.

3. Between 2 and 9 December, SFOR conducted Operation Joint Resolve 21, which involved units from all three Multinational Divisions (MNDs), the Operational Reserve and the Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU). The aim of the exercise was to demonstrate SFOR's enhanced capability in dealing with the full spectrum of civil disorder operations.

4. On 24 November, SFOR troops in MND (South East) discovered an estimated 66 tons of cyanide and an unknown amount of sodium solution in the town of Hrasnica. The site was secured on 25 November.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

5. The situation in theatre remained calm and stable throughout the reporting period, with the entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement.

6. Over the period, SFOR troops conducted 154 weapons storage site inspections. No violations were reported.

7. SFOR troops monitored 369 training and movement activities: 140 Bosnian Serb; 74 Bosniac; 19 Bosnian Croat; and 136 Federation.

8. Over the period, EAF demining teams conducted a total of 164 mine-clearing activities.

Cooperation with international organizations

9. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Police Task Force, the Office of the High Representative (OHR), the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), OSCE and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

10. SFOR continues to support OHR in its efforts to establish common institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the 8 December meeting of the Standing Committee on Military Matters (SCMM), it was decided that the target date for the completion of the 15 per cent reduction of the EAF could slip from 31 December 2000 to 31 January 2001. In early 2001, SFOR will begin the development of a joint SFOR-EAF training and exercise plan. The SCMM also agreed on plans for the expansion of the SCMM secretariat and indicated that it would consider the draft defence policy for Bosnia and Herzegovina and future EAF restructuring in January 2001.

11. SFOR continues to cooperate with the UNCHR's Returns and Reconstruction Task Force and is also supporting Displaced Person and Refugee (DPRE) settlements and evictions. DPRE return trends continue to mirror those of 1999. Between January and October 2000, minority returns increased by more than 12 per cent compared to 1999. With the onset of winter, the return process is slowing down, as expected.

Outlook

12. Isolated incidents of violence can be expected, mainly in connection with the return of refugees and displaced persons.